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BRIDGE OF HISTORY

April 7, 2004

NEWS RELEASE

Crossings are on the rise at the Sault Ste. Marie International Bridge. Traffic increased a total of 6.6 percent in March compared to the previous year.

"This is the first increase we've seen since May of 2000," said Manager Phil Becker. "We are optimistic it represents a reversal of what we've seen over the past few years."

In March, 141,056 vehicles crossed the span. "There is some speculation that the increase may be a result of the continued strong Canadian dollar," Becker said. "Other Canadian bridge crossings are experiencing a similar traffic increase."

Projections for the 2004 calendar year are promising. To date, 401,513 vehicles have crossed. This represents an overall decrease of less than 1 percent as compared to 2003.

"There's been a real jump in full-fare passenger cars and commercial trucks," Becker added.

Full-fare passenger car crossings are up 12.7 percent over last year, while the number of commercial trucks making the trip across the bridge has increased by 10.6 percent over that same period.

Over 75,500,000 vehicles have crossed the bridge since it opened in 1962.

Traffic statistics for the month are as follows:

<i>Vehicle Classification</i>	<i>One-Way Crossings</i>	<i>Change from March, 2003</i>	<i>Percent of Total Crossings</i>
<i>Full-Fare Passenger Cars:</i>	66,203	12.7%	46.9%
<i>Commuter Fare:</i>	60,200	0.9%	42.7%
<i>Car Pulling Trailers</i>	3,247	-10.0%	2.3%
<i>Commercial Trucks:</i>	11,406	10.6%	8.1%
<i>Totals:</i>	141,056		100%

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